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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DAVIDSON).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 23, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable WARREN DAVIDSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Mariel Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

SHIELD MEDICARE PATIENTS FROM FRAUD AND ABUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a truly wonderful business in State Col-

lege, Pennsylvania: KCF Technologies. I had the honor of visiting KCF yesterday as it hit the milestone of hiring its 50th employee.

KCF was founded in November 2000 by three Penn State researchers: Gary Koopmann, Weicheng Chen, and Jeremy Frank. It is a private company and is employee-owned.

This rapidly growing technology innovation company focuses on putting inventions to work in the industrial world.

Its staff develops and commercializes products and solutions for industry and the military. KCF specializes in wireless sensors, energy harvesting, underwater navigation, and smart material devices. Its goal is to bring the latest technologies to life to make things we work and live with smarter.

KCF is not only expanding its workforce, but its revenues have grown at an average annual rate of more than 60 percent and over 500 percent since 2005.

It set a lofty goal for this year to save its customers \$100 million in 2017, and KCF is passionately working to achieve that goal. Outside of its State College headquarters there is a thermometer sign prominently displayed to track progress. Multiple department walls within the facility are also adorned with thermometer posters. As KCF saves customers money throughout the year, the thermometers reflect that progress by filling up.

KCF Technologies not only cares about giving back to its customers, but it gives back to the Centre County community, too.

To commemorate a record-breaking sales month in April, employees exchanged their workday to volunteer at CentrePeace.

CentrePeace was established in 1994 with the purpose of providing a wholesome working environment for Centre County inmates. It operates the largest used furniture recycling project in the county, which prevents tons of items

from ending up in the landfills. Inmates repair and restore electronics and furniture, participate in classes to improve their life skills, and learn how to handle conflict.

KCF Technologies is also working to improve the lives of our wounded warriors thanks to research funded by the U.S. Army Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center, and the National Science Foundation.

It is fully researching and developing energy harvesting, self-powered prosthetic devices and the innovative Kinetic Revolutions Adjustable Pylon for use with leg prostheses. These electromechanical devices make life better for amputees at every age and walk of life.

Today, with my colleague, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON of California, we will introduce a bill that will curb Medicare fraud when it comes to unlawful and unlicensed providers of orthotics and prosthetics. Our bill works to ensure that the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services stops allowing these unlicensed operations to apply for and collect Federal payments.

As a former certified therapist and licensed nursing home administrator, I know firsthand the importance of safe and reliable products for those who are in need.

When unlicensed and unaccredited providers deliver prosthetic and orthotic services, both Medicare beneficiaries and the American taxpayer are shortchanged.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan Medicare Orthotics and Prosthetics Improvement Act of 2017.

ECONOMIC DIGNITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) for 5 minutes.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, Americans aren't asking for much: the ability to put in an honest day's work and provide for your family's basic needs; the chance to wake up in the morning without facing a series of impossible choices—food or medication, mortgage or car repair, a bus pass or school supplies.

In other words, the basic economic dignity that every single person in this country deserves.

The Trump administration claims that their budget is about dignity. Here is what this budget doesn't understand: dignity can be threatened by something beyond your control, by disability, by job loss, by illness, by accident, by automation, by a government that shames you for needing a little help when you are dealt a tough hand, by the pain of having to send your kid to school knowing that he is not going to have the lunch money that he needs.

Countless American families battle these daily heartbreaks and small injustices with their heads held high. For those families, this budget doesn't see them for their dignity, but views them with disgrace.

RECOGNIZING OMMEGANG AND ROSCOE BEER COMPANIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. FASO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate two local businesses, craft breweries, within the 19th Congressional District in New York State. These two local breweries, Brewery Ommevang, located in Cooperstown, New York, and Roscoe Beer Company, located in Sullivan County, New York, tied for first place in the Taste of New York Inaugural Craft Beer Challenge in Manhattan.

This competition was held on May 17 and was announced then in New York City. Seventy breweries from across the State participated in the Craft Beer Challenge. Beers were selected by such foodie favorites like Chef Mario Batali and many other notables in the New York food business.

New York has clearly established itself, as has the 19th Congressional District, as a craft beer destination.

We are especially proud of our local upstate craft breweries, which support our local economy, jobs, farms, and tourism.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce and to congratulate these two fine establishments within the 19th Congressional District.

HONORING CHRIS GIBSON

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased today to congratulate my predecessor in Congress, Congressman Chris Gibson, for his wonderful service to our country and to Congress.

Chris will soon be honored by the Columbia County Association in the city of New York as man of the year. I have known Chris for over 30 years, and I am blessed to call him and his family my

neighbors in the Village of Kinderhook, where we both live.

He was truly a great Congressman and an all-around leader to upstate New York in so many ways. He exemplifies service in its many forms. Chris is a proud patriot. He served 24 years in the United States Army, rising to the rank of colonel. He is a highly decorated veteran who received not only the Bronze Star, but the Purple Heart during his combat deployments.

He was deployed seven times, including four combat tours in Iraq. He made great sacrifices, as did his family, and he fought for our freedom. As a United States Congressman, he continued to fight for the citizens of upstate New York. He served three terms in the 19th Congressional District, fulfilling his pledge to self-imposed term limits.

His legislative priorities were national security, our veteran community, and combating Lyme disease. He always had his fellow citizens' best interests at heart.

Chris Gibson was also a scholar. He graduated from Siena College in Loudonville, New York, where he earned his ROTC commission. He went on to receive not one, but two master's degrees, plus a Ph.D. in government from Cornell University. He was an assistant professor for 3 years teaching cadets at West Point at the United States Military Academy. Today he continues his love of teaching at Williams College as a Visiting Professor of Leadership Studies.

I am proud to call Chris Gibson my friend and colleague, and it is clear to anyone who knows him that he will be successful in all of his pursuits.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor former Congressman Christopher P. Gibson. I have known Chris for over 30 years, and I am blessed to call him, his wife, Mary Jo, and their three amazing children, my neighbors in the town of Kinderhook. Chris was truly a great Congressman and an all-around leader to Upstate New York. He has exemplified service in many forms.

Chris is a proud patriot. He served 24 years in the US Army, rising to the rank of Colonel. A highly decorated veteran, he was deployed seven times, including four combat tours in Iraq. He made great sacrifices, was injured in the line of duty, and fought for our freedom.

As a US Representative, he continued to fight diligently for the citizens of Upstate New York. Chris served three terms representing New York's 19th District, fulfilling his pledge to self-impose term limits. Among many legislative priorities, Chris acted to protect our national security, veterans, and those who suffer from Lyme Disease. Without question, he has always held his fellow citizens' best interests at heart.

Chris Gibson is also a scholar. He graduated from Siena college, where he achieved his ROTC Commission, and he went on to receive two Masters Degrees and a PhD from Cornell University. At West Point, Chris taught cadets for three years as an Assistant Professor. Today, he continues his love for teaching and sharing his experience in his role as the Visiting Professor of Leadership Studies at Williams College.

I am proud to call Chris Gibson my friend and colleague, and it is clear to anyone who knows him that he will be successful in all his pursuits.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express gratitude and appreciation to the many who have called. I rise to thank people for the kindness that they have shown. I rise to express my most deepest heartfelt appreciation for those who have had the courage to stand up to hatred, to stand up to bigotry. I rise, Mr. Speaker, to say thank you.

I want to especially thank those who are in leadership. I especially want to thank two persons: Representative CLYBURN and Representative BENNIE THOMPSON. They both called me to express concern and to give me advice as to how to proceed.

For those who may not know, some very ugly things have been said, but they are not in any way comparable to the many kind words that have been expressed.

So thank you to all on behalf of my staff, many of whom are young people who are having this as their first experience with Congress. Thank you on their behalf.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to explain why some of these ugly things are occurring, and the best way to do it, in my opinion, would be to use the words of J. Patrick Kinney. J. Patrick Kinney has written a poem styled "The Cold Within," and this poem speaks to the extreme cupidity in our world—not stupidity, cupidity. It speaks to the extreme religiosity. It speaks to the extreme prejudice that some have to endure. It speaks to the extreme wealth and the abuse of it.

J. Patrick Kinney talks about a cold night, possibly the coldest night ever on the planet Earth. These are his words:

Six humans trapped by happenstance
In bleak and bitter cold.
Each one possessed a stick of wood
Or so the story is told.
Their dying fire in need of logs
The first man held his back
For of the faces 'round the fire
He noticed one was Black.
The next man looking 'cross the way
Saw one not of his church
And he couldn't bring himself to give
The fire his stick of birch.
The third one sat in tattered clothes.
He gave his coat a hitch.
Why should his stick be put to use
To warm the idle rich?
The rich man just sat back and thought
Of the wealth he had in store
And how to keep what he had earned
From the lazy shiftless poor.
The Black man's face bespoke revenge
As the fire passed from his sight.
For all he saw in his stick of wood
Was a chance to spite the White.
The last man of this forlorn group